

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed on December 16, 2004. Claims 1, 8-10, 12, 13, 20, 22, and 27 are amended. Claims 5, 7, and 15 are cancelled. Claims 1-4, 6, 8-14, and 16-28 are pending.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 15, 20 and 22 contain allowable subject matter.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite. The claims are amended herein to overcome the indefiniteness rejection. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 9, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ijlstra (US 4,104,484).

Claims 1-6, 8, 9, 13, 14, 16-19, 21, and 24-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Iijima (US 5,661,357).

Claims 1, 9-11 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Armiroli (DE 19630658).

Claims 1, 12-14, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Takahashi (US 5,523,634).

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iijima in view of Sharp (US 4,181,472).

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections in view of the amended claims and the following comments.

Discussion of Amended Claims

Claim 1 is amended to include the subject matter of claims 5 and 7. Claims 5 and 7 are cancelled to avoid duplication of claimed subject matter. Claims 6 and 8 are amended to depend from claim 1.

Claims 9, 10, 12, and 27 are amended to clarify the claim language with respect to the first housing cover.

Claim 13 is amended to include the subject matter of original claim 1 and the allowable

subject matter of claim 15. Claim 15 is cancelled to avoid duplication of claimed subject matter.

Claims 20 and 22, each of which includes allowable subject matter, are amended into independent form.

Accordingly, independent claims 13, 20 and 22 and dependent claims 14, 16-19 and 23 are in condition for immediate allowance.

Discussion of Sharp

Claim 1 is amended herein to include the subject matter of claims 5 and 7. The Examiner rejected claim 7 as being unpatentable over Iijima in view of Sharp.

The Examiner has acknowledged that Iijima does not disclose at least one rib in the housing sleeve connecting regions of the sleeve body lying on either side of the feed line and stabilizing the regions of the sleeve body in relation to each other, as now set forth in amended claim 1. The Examiner relies on Sharp as disclosing such a rib.

Sharp discloses an electric motor 14 having a motor housing. The motor housing is inserted into the housing 12 of a pump. Ribs 34 project from the pump housing 12.

The Examiner has equated the ribs 34 of the pump housing with Applicants' claimed at least one rib. Applicants respectfully submit that the ribs 34 of Sharp are not equivalent to the at least one rib claimed by Applicants. The at least one rib claimed by Applicants is formed in the sleeve body of the housing sleeve of the motor housing. In contrast, the ribs 34 of Sharp are formed on the pump housing 12, and not on the housing of the electric motor 14, which is separate from the pump housing 12.

Further, the ribs 34 of Sharp do not connect regions of the sleeve body lying on either side of the feed line and stabilize the regions of the sleeve body in relation to each other, as claimed by Applicants. The ribs 34 of Sharp simply extend in a radial direction from the pump housing 12 in order to provide a space outside the pump housing 12 between the two ribs 34 for protecting the electrical leads 58 and 60 (Col. 3, lines 27-31).

Further, to the extent that electrical leads 58 and 60 comprise feed lines for the motor 14, these leads are not running in the region of the rib within the housing sleeve of the motor

housing, as is the feed line claimed by Applicants. In contrast, the ribs 34 of Sharp are on the outside of the pump housing 12, and not within the sleeve body of the housing of the motor 14.

Accordingly, Sharp does not disclose or remotely suggest that a housing sleeve of a motor housing has a sleeve body and at least one rib, where the at least one feed line runs in the region of the rib within the housing sleeve, and the at least one rib connects regions of the sleeve body lying on either side of the feed line and stabilizing the regions of the sleeve body in relation to each other, as claimed by Applicants.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention as set forth in amended claim 1 would not have been obvious to one skilled in the art in view of the combination of Iijima and Sharp, or any of the other prior art of record.

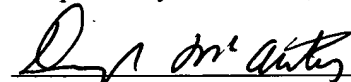
Further remarks regarding the asserted relationship between Applicant's claims and the prior art are not deemed necessary, in view of the amended claims and the foregoing discussion. Applicants' silence as to any of the Examiner's comments is not indicative of an acquiescence to the stated grounds of rejection.

Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is therefore respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider this application, allow each of the pending claims and to pass this application on to an early issue. If there are any remaining issues that need to be addressed in order to place this application into condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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